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## SEEK HIRED GUNMEN IN HALL MURDERS

New Lead as Reported Continues to Be Based on Jealousy Theory.

### BLACKMAIL IS SCOUTED

Detectives Argue Rector Would Not Have Been Slain to Obtain Money.

### WIDOW POSTPONES TRIP

Will Not Go to Europe as Intended—Willie Stevens Defers Southern Visit.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

NEW BRUNSWICK, Dec. 10.—A new lead, which it is believed will greatly strengthen the case against those believed to have been implicated in the murder of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, has been unearthed within the last few days by County Detective David of Middlesex county and County Detective Totten of Somerset county. Wilbur A. Mott, Special Deputy Attorney-General, who is expected to resume his investigation to-morrow, has been apprised of the new developments.

David said to-night that some work of importance had been accomplished and that, from his point of view and that of Totten the outlook was brighter than it had been. As far as can be learned the new lead, while in a way strengthening the jealousy theory, brings out two or three new phases that it is hoped will make possible the identification as the actual murderers of others than those under surveillance to date.

David and some of the other detectives contend the blackmail theory has been entirely eliminated. They argue that in no circumstances would the blackmailers have killed Hall, who had \$40,000 readily available. At the same time the coming of New Brunswick's underworld is still in progress. With both the blackmail theory and that of mistaken identity given up the activity of the sluths at this time would indicate a belief that the crime may have been committed by hired assassins.

Some members of the State police have looked with favor on the hired assassin theory for some time, contending that only a rough and hardened character would have cut Mrs. Mills' throat after she was dead. Of course the theory permits of the possession of guilty knowledge by men and women not directly implicated in the killing, and this belief, as it affects a woman who has been prominent in the case, is generally held.

It was learned to-day that the contemplated European trip of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, widow of the murdered rector, has been indefinitely postponed. So, too, has the southern trip of Willie Stevens, her brother. It has been the custom of Willie to go South every winter and he should have left before this. Arrangements had been made for his leaving last Thursday, but they are canceled.

Mott is still ill in his home at East Orange, but his aid, Lieut. Mason, has been in more or less constant touch with Detectives David and Totten, and has also been in contact with Mott. When he comes here to-morrow, therefore, he will be conversant with all the moves made since the Grand Jury refused to return indictments and he can at once begin building up the case against the arrival of Mr. Mott.

## Coal Overdevelopment Chief Cause of Strikes

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Overdevelopment in the bituminous coal industry—too much investment, too much capacity and far too many miners—is the primary cause of the chaotic condition of the nation's coal supply and recurrent strikes, according to an announcement made by the United States Coal Commission to-day.

The commission appointed by the President to investigate and report on the coal industry has proceeded far enough with its studies to be able to state this general conclusion of overdevelopment coupled with a strong warning to new capital to shy clear of the industry.

## SING SING PAYS FOR CONVICT'S ESCAPE

Prisoners Confined to Cells as 'Discipline,' Not 'Punishment,' Says Warden.

All the prisoners at Sing Sing were confined to their cells for twenty-four hours and deprived of their usual Saturday night motion picture show and other week end recreation after the escape of Patrick Dealey on Saturday.

The confinement was not "punishment," Warden Lewis E. Lawes said. Charles F. Rattigan, State Superintendent of Prisons, called it "discipline."

"This is a community," Mr. Lawes said, "and we wish the inmates to understand that recreation is a privilege and not a right. We wish to impress upon them that the system here is based upon community interest and that there must be group responsibility."

The visiting records of the prison show that Dealey's brother, Hugh, and Miss Helen McAndrews of 2241 Eighth avenue, Manhattan, both called on the prisoner during the run of the show, "Honey Girl," at the prison.

Miss McAndrews attended two performances, but, according to the guards, she did not get close to Dealey at any time. Mr. Lawes said that he did not believe a woman would have been able to help Dealey get away and that the authorities were working on the theory that two young men provided Dealey with the clothes to wear over his gray uniform as he left the prison with the 1,150 visiting guests attending the show.

## ANTHRACITE GOES UP WITH HEAVY DEMAND

Transportation Still a Problem, Says Authority.

"The demand for all domestic sizes of anthracite continues to be extremely heavy, while the supply remains far below necessary requirements," says the Black Diamond. "Much dissatisfaction prevails in all districts where anthracite is used heavily for household purposes and many expedients have been tried in an effort to meet the situation. Retail dealers as well as civic and commercial associations have been urging householders to substitute the smaller sizes of anthracite wherever possible. Much also has been accomplished in the way of persuading the public to burn coke and smokeless and bituminous coal where possible."

"Prices in most sections of the country have remained stable, but fluctuations have been noted here and there, some downward and others up. One feature was the announcement of a slight advance in the prices of anthracite, both by old line companies and independent producers."

"The car situation has shown little improvement, the production and distribution of coal still being greatly hampered by a lack of adequate transportation facilities."

## COAL PINCH EASED BY ORGANIZATION

Enforced Use of Substitutes Begins To-day With Purchases Exceeding a Ton.

No dealer may supply and no consumer accept stove size hard coal in amounts of two tons and upward unless there goes with it an additional 25 per cent. in substitute fuels, beginning to-day. This is in accordance with local order No. 3 of State Fuel Administrator Woodin, issued last week and effective this morning.

Buyers of one ton of coal at a time are made exempt from forced acceptance of substitutes. Large users, however, who might pose as one ton men as a ruse to amass a stock without paying the freight in substitutes will be promptly detected, dealers said. Careful checkup will be made from day to day to guard against subterfuge.

If to-day's order does not prove sufficient to reconcile somewhere within reason the marked shortage of domestic anthracite and marked surplus of substitutes it will probably be made more drastic, Mr. Woodin has said.

The order, by which the administrator hopes to save from 15,000 to 20,000 tons of stove size hard coal a week, reads: "Each delivery of the sizes of anthracite known as grate, broken, egg, stove, chestnut or range coal, where such coal is used for heating purposes and when the delivery consists of two tons or more, shall be preceded or accompanied by a delivery of not less than 25 per cent. of buckwheat, coke, bituminous coal or other substitutes."

"No delivery of less than one ton of substitutes is required under this order," Arthur S. Learoyd, Fuel Administrator for Districts 1 and 2, including Greater New York and parts of Nassau and Suffolk counties, has estimated the surplus substitutes available at the harbor at 150,000 tons.

Administrator Woodin was more optimistic of the fuel outlook last night than in some days, and predicted steady improvement in the situation from now on as a result of Order 3—provided, he added, an untimely blizzard did not come along and tie up the city in ice and snow for four or five days.

"The situation is well organized," said Mr. Woodin, "as yet there has been no suffering. Any cases which threaten suffering will be taken care of by application to my office, 165 Broadway."

Mr. Woodin contradicted the claim put forward by Dave Williams, spokesman for railway shopmen still on strike, to the effect that the coal famine was due to breakdown of railroad equipment as a result of the strike.

## BAN VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA DRIVE

Coler Says Solicitation Last January Broke Faith With City.

The Volunteers of America have been refused permission to solicit money on the streets for Christmas. Bird S. Coler, Commissioner of Public Welfare, issued a statement yesterday explaining why he permits the Salvation Army to conduct its annual street corner drive and denied the same privilege to a rival organization.

"The Salvation Army," the Commissioner said, "has kept faith with the Welfare Department. The Volunteers of America have not. A few days after January 1, 1922, the Volunteers of America began soliciting throughout the streets against the wishes of this department. Arrests were made, and as a result they attacked the validity of the ordinance limiting street collections. Ex-Governor Whitman is their counsel, and the case has been postponed month after month and finally set for December 15."

Mr. Whitman said the continuance was at the request of the District Attorney. In his opinion the Volunteers are right, he declared. So far their contention that they cannot be restrained from street soliciting has been sustained by the court, and Justice Mullin will hand down a decision Friday which Gov. Whitman thinks will be favorable to his clients. In that case, he said, he would advise them to go ahead and solicit regardless of Commissioner Coler.

"We now have a request from the Volunteers of America to collect upon the streets for three weeks during December. We cannot see our way clear to grant this request, for the reason that the Volunteers of America have broken faith with this department. I believe they broke faith because they knew the Salvation Army would be off the streets and that a good many people would not know the difference between them."

"The purpose of the ordinance to my mind is not alone for taking legitimate collections from the streets, but for so limiting good ones that the people will not be continually harassed the whole year round. If the Volunteers of America win their case I take it that the streets of New York will be flooded with all types of solicitation. This I do not believe to be either in the interests of good morals or the best interests of private charities themselves or the public welfare in general."

Commissioner Coler accompanied the statement with a report by his department of the Volunteer Children's Home on Staten Island.

ment of the Volunteer Children's Home on Staten Island. "You will see that they have eighteen children in two institutions, neither of which is approved by the State Board of Charities," he adds. "There is absolutely no necessity for these places so far as the city of New York is concerned, as we have over 200 vacancies in Protestant institutions at the present time. The idea given out by the Volunteers that these institutions are necessary is not so."

### SEIZE LIQUOR BOAT.

Prohibition officers last night seized the thirty-five foot cabin cruiser Thelma with a considerable cargo of liquor after she had been abandoned off Lawrence, L. I. She was taken to the landing of the Central Boat Club at Far Rockaway, where it was found the liquor consisted of fifty cases of rye whiskey and about forty bags of Scotch. She is registered in Brooklyn.

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